IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1. **Please also amend** claims 3-6, as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

Claims 1-2 (canceled).

3. (currently amended) ~~The numerical information retrieving device according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ A numerical information retrieving device for retrieving numerical information, comprising:

input means for inputting a document to be retrieved, the document containing a numerical expression in a first form;

an attribute information dictionary which stores therein attribute names indicative of attributes, and conditions under which the attributes are bestowed;

attribute bestowal means for bestowing an attribute on the numerical expression in the inputted document by referring to the attribute information dictionary;

a conversion information dictionary which stores attribute names indicate of attributes, non-converted character strings, and converted character strings therein;

numerical conversion means for converting the numerical expression having the attribute bestowed by the attribute bestowal means, from a non-converted character string into a converted character string by referring to the conversion information dictionary, so as to convert the numerical expression into a numerical expression in a second form;

extraction means for extracting a retrieval keyword from the document after conversion by the numerical conversion means;

a document database which stores document data therein;

document storage and retrieval means for storing the document after the conversion by the numerical conversion means, the inputted document, and the extracted retrieval keyword in the document database; and

output means for outputting a retrieved result;

wherein [[said]] the document storage and retrieval means retrieves any document whose retrieval keyword agrees with the numerical expression after the ~~attribute bestowal~~ conversion by the numerical conversion means, from [[said]] the document database, and

sends the retrieved document as the retrieved result to said output means.

4. (currently amended) ~~The numerical information retrieving device according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ A numerical information retrieving device for retrieving numerical information, comprising:

input means for inputting a document to be retrieved, the document containing a numerical expression in a first form;

an attribute information dictionary which stores therein attribute names indicative of attributes, and conditions under which the attributes are bestowed;

attribute bestowal means for bestowing an attribute on the numerical expression in the inputted document by referring to the attribute information dictionary;

a conversion information dictionary which stores attribute names indicate of attributes, non-converted character strings, and converted character strings therein;

numerical conversion means for converting the numerical expression having the attribute bestowed by the attribute bestowal means, from a non-converted character string into a converted character string by referring to the conversion information dictionary, so as to convert the numerical expression into a numerical expression in a second form;

extraction means for extracting a retrieval keyword from the document after conversion by the numerical conversion means;

a document database which stores document data therein;

document storage and retrieval means for storing the document after the conversion by the numerical conversion means, the inputted document, and the extracted retrieval keyword in the document database;

an extraction information dictionary which stores therein attribute names indicative of attributes, range specifying words indicative of expressions of ranges, comparing conditions indicative of relations of magnitudes of comparisons, and alignment orders indicative of orders to rearrange outputs;

rearrangement means to rearrange the outputs; and

output means for outputting retrieved results;

wherein [[said]] the extraction means extracts an attribute name, a numerical value and a range specifying word from the numerical expression after the ~~attribute bestowal~~ conversion by the numerical conversion means;

wherein [[said]] the rearrangement means compares the numerical value extracted from the numerical expression, with respective numerical values of a plurality of retrieval keywords whose attribute names agree with the attribute name extracted from the numerical expression, and selects the retrieval keywords as to which results of the comparisons are suited to a selected one of the comparing conditions of the range specifying word and rearranges the selected retrieval keywords in a selected one of the alignment orders, by referring to [[said]] the extraction information dictionary; and

wherein [[said]] the document storage and retrieval means searches for retrieval keywords whose attribute names agree with the attribute name extracted from the numerical expression, from said document database, and sends the keywords searched for, to [[said]] the rearrangement means, and [[it]] the document storage and retrieval means also retrieves any of a plurality of documents which agree with the rearranged retrieval keywords, from within [[said]] the document database, and sends the retrieved documents as the retrieved results to [[said]] the output means, in the order of the rearranged retrieval keywords.

5. (currently amended) ~~The numerical information retrieving device according to claim 1,~~ A numerical information retrieving device for retrieving numerical information, comprising:

input means for inputting a document to be retrieved, the document containing a numerical expression in a first form;

an attribute information dictionary which stores therein attribute names indicative of attributes, and conditions under which the attributes are bestowed;

attribute bestowal means for bestowing an attribute on the numerical expression in the inputted document by referring to the attribute information dictionary;

a conversion information dictionary which stores attribute names indicate of attributes, non-converted character strings, and converted character strings therein;

numerical conversion means for converting the numerical expression having the attribute bestowed by the attribute bestowal means, from a non-converted character string into a converted character string by referring to the conversion information dictionary, so as to convert the numerical expression into a numerical expression in a second form;

extraction means for extracting a retrieval keyword from the document after conversion by the numerical conversion means;

a document database which stores document data therein; and

document storage and retrieval means for storing the document after the conversion by the numerical conversion means, the inputted document, and the extracted retrieval keyword in the document database,

wherein [[said]] the attribute bestowal means bestows an opening tag and a closing tag of the attribute before and behind a condition part of an original sentence, respectively, by referring to [[said]] the attribute information dictionary.

6. (currently amended) ~~The numerical information retrieving device according to claim 1,~~ A numerical information retrieving device for retrieving numerical information, comprising:

input means for inputting a document to be retrieved, the document containing a numerical expression in a first form;

an attribute information dictionary which stores therein attribute names indicative of attributes, and conditions under which the attributes are bestowed;

attribute bestowal means for bestowing an attribute on the numerical expression in the inputted document by referring to the attribute information dictionary;

a conversion information dictionary which stores attribute names indicate of attributes, non-converted character strings, and converted character strings therein;

numerical conversion means for converting the numerical expression having the attribute bestowed by the attribute bestowal means, from a non-converted character string into a converted character string by referring to the conversion information dictionary, so as to convert the numerical expression into a numerical expression in a second form;

extraction means for extracting a retrieval keyword from the document after conversion by the numerical conversion means;

a document database which stores document data therein; and

document storage and retrieval means for storing the document after the conversion by the numerical conversion means, the inputted document, and the extracted retrieval keyword in the document database,

wherein [[said]] the attribute bestowal means bestows the attribute by referring to [[said]] the attribute information dictionary, and attribute information data indicative of the attribute of a condition part in an original sentence is held separately from the inputted document or numerical expression without altering the inputted document document. or numerical expression.